

REMARKS

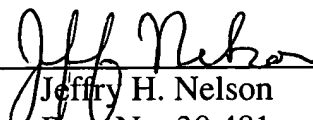
With respect to the prior art rejection, Applicants now realize that Kenley et al, at col. 26, Ins. 58-60, discloses reversing the blood pump to adjust a fluid level in the air-separating and pressure monitoring chamber 472. However (as previously argued), Kenley et al does not disclose reversing the blood pump to generate a negative pressure in the blood return line, whereby a flow through the return line may be reversed. Accordingly, there is no anticipation.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Jeffrey H. Nelson
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:glf
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100